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## News Release

Contact: Kelly M. Barmann

### JACKSON COUNTY RESIDENTS GET GOOD NEWS FROM USDA

**Brownstown (03-21; 3-13-2003):** Residents of Jackson County received good news today when government and utility representatives gathered to finalize the details on a financial package to fund a major water infrastructure improvement project. USDA Rural Development announced that the Jackson County Water Utility, Inc. is receiving a \$5,346,000 low interest loan for this project.

Dan Devault, USDA Rural Development Loan Specialist, met today to discuss the funding with Richard Tormoehlen, President, Jackson County Water Utility, Inc., at the utility's office, 1119 Spring Street, Brownstown. Devault said, "Congratulations to the Jackson County Water Utility. This USDA loan will enable you to continue to play a vital role in this area by being a source of safe and reliable water which is critical for rural areas to prosper.

The infrastructure improvement project will consist of laying 38 miles of distribution and transmission main, construction of a booster station and a 750,000 gallon storage tank. These improvements will reinforce the existing distribution system to maintain and improve the water pressure and volume. The new distribution line will extend service to nearly 100 new customers, and accommodate future growth.

Since its inception in 1970, the Jackson County Water Utility, Inc. has worked to provide potable water at a reasonable cost. From a modest start, the utility now serves nearly 5,000 customers. The system is a major asset for Jackson County and the small areas in neighboring counties that are served. With a modern water treatment plant constructed in the mid-1990's, and with water purchased from American Water, the utility is well situated to continue its vital role in the future.

Single family home loans, rural rental housing, water and waste water facility funding, business and industry loans, and community facility loans and grants are financial resources available from USDA Rural Development. Since 1994 USDA Rural Development has invested about \$16 million in Jackson County including nearly \$10 million in mortgage loan assistance for families seeking to become homeowners. Questions concerning these services in this area can be directed to USDA Rural Development, 1919 Steven Avenue, Bedford, IN 47421-3534; phone 812-279-8117, extension 4.

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